



WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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David M. Aderhold, EdD
Superintendent of Schools

April 23, 2020

Dear WW-P Community,

This morning the Administration became aware of a video that was posted to social media overnight by a District student that contained racist and hateful language, as well as troubling images. While we don't know the intention, we do know that the consequences of such postings are emotionally hurtful and raise rightful indignation.

The West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District has been and still is working in cooperation with law enforcement authorities in accordance with the New Jersey Memorandum of Agreement between School Officials and Law Enforcement. While we cannot comment on the specifics of the investigation, suspected incidents of racism or hate speech are contrary to our core values and investigated thoroughly.

The district condemns all acts of bigotry, racism, and hate. Instead, we continue to be committed to valuing our long-standing racial, religious, and cultural diversity. We believe it is our responsibility to provide our students and staff with a safe environment, free from hate and bigotry. Whether we are in our brick and mortar buildings, or in our current virtual remote learning program, we will continue to do everything in our power to reinforce our District and community values and protect our students and staff.

In this digital age, and especially in this time of social distancing and stay-at-home orders, we ask our parents to be cognizant of the access their children have to various social media platforms, and to be mindful of what they are posting. Unfortunately, sometimes these social platforms are used to spread hateful and hurtful messages. These platforms can be used to encourage users, through various methods of enticement and reward, to post outrageous messages and content in the hopes of attracting the most attention. In a time of physical isolation and an understandable yearning for social connection, students may turn to social media for a connection to the outside. A helpful resource to guide and assist our parents/guardian navigate through these social media challenges is [Common Sense Media](#).

To our West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District and our West Windsor and Plainsboro communities, we must continue to uphold our shared values of racial, ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity. We are appreciative to all that sent messages alerting the school district of the posted

comments and applaud you for standing up for those values. As a community, we have a responsibility to monitor and support these shared values. We also have a responsibility to one another to forgive wrongdoing and allow individuals the opportunity to grow from mistakes. Honoring the social emotional learning and growth of individuals, which is a hallmark of our district, also means recognizing that errors in judgment will be made. While we do not condone the posting or the message, we will never condemn the growth potential inside each of our students. Let this misguided incident be one that unites us as a school community.

Sincerely,

David Aderhold, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools